



Pete Ricketts, Governor

DATE: August 4, 2021
TO: NDCS Incarcerated Population
FROM: Dir. Scott R. Frakes
RE: J&J Vaccine Availability

We continue to receive requests for COVID-19 vaccinations. Fortunately, we can continue to provide additional doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Health officials have determined that vaccine, when properly stored and maintained, has a longer shelf life than previously estimated. The vaccine remains stable, without any loss in effectiveness.

NDCS Medical Director Dr. Harbans Deol has authorized administration of the J&J vaccine throughout the month of August and the first half of September. The J&J vaccine has been effective in addressing variant forms of COVID-19, including the most recent Delta variant.

You have no doubt heard of "breakthrough" cases of COVID (positive cases occurring in previously vaccinated individuals). It is important to know that cases have been less severe in individuals who have been vaccinated. For those who have certain health conditions, COVID-19 is still considered a serious, and potentially life-threatening disease.

We will continue to offer vaccine as long as our supply is available. Please notify facility staff if you wish to be vaccinated or if you wish to receive a mask. Keep observing universal health precautions, like frequent hand washing. Free bars of soap are still available to anyone who needs them. It is also important to be mindful about the amount of space between you and others who may be sick.

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